

**THIRTY DOLLARS
PER ANNUM.**

Shipping.

[illegible]

Co-day's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL, CITY HALL.

BENEFIT OF MISS SALLIE BOOTH AND MISS BLANCHE RIPLEY.

SATURDAY, the 31st June, 1895.
Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

BANK HOLIDAY.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 6 of 1895 the Undermentioned BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY next, the 3rd June (WHIT MONDAY):—

For the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA, A. C. MARSHALL, Manager, Hongkong.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, T. JACKSON, Chief Manager.

For the NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED, GEO. W. F. PLAYFAIR, Chief Manager.

For the MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED, JOHN THURBURN, Manager, Hongkong.

For the BANQUE DE L'INDO-CHINE, HONGKONG BRANCH, EMILE MAVER, Manager.

For the BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED, HONGKONG, CHANTREY INCHBALD, Manager.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

THE Undermentioned INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY, the 3rd proximo (WHIT MONDAY):—

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., General Agents, CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LD.

DOUGLAS JONES, Actg. Secretary, UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LD.

W. H. PERCIVAL, Agent, NORTH CHINA INSURANCE CO., LD.

W. H. RAY, Secretary, CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LD.

SHAW & CO., Agents, CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

WM. MACBEAN, Manager, THE STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LD.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

PUBLIC AUCTION

OF A VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY, Situate at VICTORIA, HONGKONG, to be SOLD on THURSDAY, the 6th June, 1895, at 3 o'clock P.M. at the Premises.

THE PROPERTY will first be offered in ONE LOT, and if not sold will be offered IN LOTS, as follows:—

LOT 1.—The tenement No. 61, HOLLYWOOD ROAD, situate on Sub-section No. 1 of Section B of Island Lot No. 65.

LOT 2.—The tenement No. 31, ABERDEEN STREET, situate on Sub-section No. 1 of Section C of Island Lot No. 65.

LOT 3.—The tenement No. 16, PEARL STREET, situate on a portion of the Remaining portion of Island Lot No. 175.

LOT 4.—The tenement No. 18, PEARL STREET, situate on a portion of the Remaining portion of Island Lot No. 175.

For further Particulars and Conditions of Sale, apply to VICTOR H. DEACON, Solicitor, or to J. M. ARMSTRONG, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1895.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO. THE 100 A. I. British Ship "LYNDHURST," Martin, Master, will load here for the above Port, and will have quick despatch. For Freight, apply to SHEWAN & Co.

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED, VICTORIA DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.

AERATED WATERS.

SIMPLE AERATED WATER. SODA WATER. LEMONADE.

GINGER ALE. SASSAPARILLA. RASPBERRYVADE, &c.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co.'s WATERS are made under the constant supervision of a duly qualified English Chemist and will bear comparison with the best English Manufactures.

Special terms to HOTELS, CLUBS, MESSERS and other Large Consumers.

Any complaints should be addressed to the Manager. Hongkong, 3rd May, 1895.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED. ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

ALL these are Selected by our London House, bought direct at first hand, imported in Wood and Bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits and enabling us to supply the best growths at moderate prices.

PRICE LISTS, WITH FULL DETAILS, TO BE HAD ON APPLICATION.

PORT—After removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHERRY—Excellent dinner and after dinner Wines, of very superior vintage. All are true Xeres Wines.

CLARET—Our Clarets, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the juice of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currents, as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be of pure quality and of age and vintage.

WHISKY—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The Scotch Whisky marked "E" is universally popular and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong Market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorised Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD. THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY. Hongkong, 9th January, 1895.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1895.

THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

REMARKABLE GOVERNMENTAL EPISTLE.

We have the honour, in common with our contemporaries, to acknowledge the receipt from the Colonial Secretary of a very hastily written and very ill-tempered letter on the subject of our remarks about the report of the Medical Commission and the curious discrepancy, still unexplained, between a paragraph in that report as Mr. McConachy read it out in Council on the 17th of April and the same paragraph as it appeared in print on the 23rd May. We publish this letter in full in another column. The Governor, through the Colonial Secretary, accuses us of having "without inquiry and without any evidence" allowed this paper to be made the vehicle of an outrageous and libellous charge against the Government, a charge of falsifying for its own purposes a public document before its publication. He further accuses us in the last paragraph of the letter of publishing gratuitous statements absolutely untrue, and of "imputing to the Government motives which would be creditable to the lowest form of Government."

Now in the first place what business has the Governor, without making any inquiry from us, to assert that what we published was published without inquiry and without evidence? How does he know that? And on what evidence does he make that assertion? We made inquiry and we had evidence, and did not publish without both the one and the other. The Governor owes us, we think, an apology and retraction on that point. Now what statements did we make in the incriminated paragraph published on the 23rd instant? (1) That the Medical report was undated; that is so, as any one can see for himself; (2) that it purported to be signed some

equally true; (3) that it time in Asia since first signed and sent was clear Government it had been altered in this respect, some words having been added since Mr. McConachy read out a paragraph in the Legislative Council. We are bound to accept the statement now formally made in writing by all the members of the Medical Commission that no such alteration was made, and we formally withdraw our assertion but we do not apologize. The statement was, under the circumstances, a perfectly legitimate one to make. The evidence on the point was almost irresistible. Mr. McConachy had in the course of a debate in the Legislative Council professed to quote the exact words of the report. When, nearly a month afterwards, the Report appeared in print it was found on examination that there were words in print that the Honourable Member had not read, although most pertinent to the subject then under discussion and such as one would naturally have expected him to read if in the report. What other conclusion could be drawn than that they had been added since the report was first signed and sent in? But we neither said nor insinuated that the Government or any Government Officer had made the alteration unauthoritatively. Our opinion was that, probably at the suggestion or request of the Government or of some member of it, the members of the Commission had consented to the addition as better expressing their opinions on a particular point then newly raised. We made no charge against the Government. We intended to make no charge against the Government. We noted what appeared to be, on the best evidence, a fact. It was not a gratuitous statement. It was one it was our duty to make. We were writing about a matter of immediate and considerable public interest, and about which explanation was needed. We did not charge any one directly or indirectly with falsifying a public document, nor did we dream of such a thing. We stated, further, that the evidence had been carefully edited since first reduced to writing and was not quite in the same state as when originally submitted to the Government. We may have been wrong as to the time when alterations were made in the evidence, and it may have been altered before it left the hands of the Commission, but we never said or insinuated that it had been altered by the Government, or by any one connected with the Government. We repeat again that the evidence as originally taken down. Will Dr. Lowson, for instance, state that he has not revised the drafts or first proofs—we do not know which—of his evidence? Governments legitimately exercise their influence on their officers to consent to modify their reports or their evidence at times, and no one reading the last few lines of our paragraph can have doubt that alteration by or with the Government was intended. We accept, we say again, unhesitatingly the evidence of Dr. Knorr and his colleagues, that the report as printed is in all respects as it was when drafted and signed, but the fact still remains unexplained that Mr. McConachy, professing to give the exact words of the report, omitted a certain very significant portion, and led us and our contemporaries into error. We correct the statement of fact. We indignantly repudiate the Governor's assertion that we made libellous and outrageous charges against the Government of falsifying public documents. We made no charges whatever and wrote no word that could give colour to such a charge. We imputed no motives to any one.

We note on comparing the letter received by us with that sent to the *China Mail* that they appear to be common form documents apparently kept in stock for such occasions as the present and fired off indiscriminately at every one alike. May we respectfully suggest to his Excellency that no useful purpose can be served by the writing of letters of the tone and temper of that now under reply. It is weak and undignified, and where there is a question of libel, such matters had better be left to the authorised law officers of the Crown to deal with, instead of to a gentleman who does not understand the force and meaning of the words he uses and who is too hasty and excitable to give himself time to think.

(Special to Hongkong Telegraph.)

TELEGRAM.

THE OCCUPATION OF FORMOSA.

JAPANESE FLEET OFF TAMSUI.

FIGHTING IMMINENT.

SHANGHAI, May 29th.

Noon.

The Japanese Fleet is now outside Tamsui Bar and fighting will probably take place to-day or to-morrow.

The Japanese Viceroy of Formosa is on board one of the ironclads.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

LONDON, May 28th.

Twenty-one British warships, under Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour, are now at Alexandria; visits have been exchanged with the Khedive and the town is in full.

THE INDIAN COTTON DUTIES.

The Right Hon. H. H. Fowler replying to a question asked by Mr. J. H. Williams, asked for a written statement on the specific question as to whether the duties were protective, which statement he would transmit to India, and would communicate the reply to the deputation.

THE FORMOSA DIFFICULTY.

A Japanese fleet has arrived off Tamsui and fighting is expected. (As will have been seen by an "Extra," which we issued at 12.30 to-day, the Japanese Fleet detailed to accompany Viscount Kabayama (the Viceroy) and an Army Corps from Hiroshima to Formosa arrived off Tamsui this morning. Reuter's wire probably refers to a few scouts, or the advance guard of a Japanese armada.—Ed. H.K. Telegraph.)

(Special to *Stam Observer*.) THE ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

THE CHIEF POINTS IN THE REFORM PROGRAMME. CONSTANTINOPLE, May 15th.

The principal points in the note presented to the Porte by the representatives of Great Britain, France, and Russia, with respect to the reforms demanded in Armenia, are as follows:—

The Powers to vote as to the appointment of the Vails (Governor-Generals, one at the head of each Vilayet, of which there are five in Armenia).

The third highest post among the officials to be held by a Christian.

A Commission to be appointed to supervise the administration of the Armenian Provinces, and to consist of Muslims and Christians.

Courts of Assize to be constituted.

A regular inspection of the prisons to be established.

The Kurds to be disarmed.

The Porte to appoint a High Commissioner who shall supervise the execution of these reforms.

"TRUTH WILL OUT."

ST. PETERSBURG, May 18th.

The newspapers in Russia are urging the Government to press for advantages of a positive nature, amongst them the extension of the trans-Siberian railway to a port on the Yellow Sea. This demand, which is in view of the relationship of the press to the State, is probably inspired, would imply the inclusion of Korea in the Russian sphere.

THE NICARAGUA INDEMNITY.

LONDON, May 10th.

The indemnity of £15,000 demanded by England has been paid in Paris by the Government of Nicaragua. The whole sum was paid in shillings.

THE TICHBORNE CLAIMANT.

The Tichborne Claimant has sworn an affidavit in which he admits that his true name is Arthur Orton.

THE PROJECTED CHINESE LOAN.

PARIS, May 19th.

A conference of bankers is discussing in Paris the subject of the Chinese loan. The first instalment asked for will probably be £200,000. The question under discussion is the principle of an European control of the Chinese Customs.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE CANTON RIVER.

The following letter has been forwarded to us by the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for publication:—

Canton, May 27th, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you in reply to my enquiry the Viceroy has stated to me that the torpedo in the Canton river is being removed. It is hoped that navigation will be clear in a few days.

I have, &c.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE German cruiser *Marle* arrived here this morning from Shanghai.

A MEETING of the members of the V. R. C. will be held in the boat-house at 5.15 p.m. to-morrow.

"ENGINEER": Your question has been duly noted and will appear in the *QUERY COLUMN* at an early date.

ADMIRAL ITO will, it is said, be created a Viscount in the very near future.

It is stated that Sir Geo. T. O'Brien will shortly retire from the Civil Service on account of ill health.

An Imperial Rescript was promulgated in Tokio on the 13th inst., being an address to the army and navy, thanking them for the exertions by which they brought the war to a successful issue.

THE Chinese Government transport *Martha*, flying the German flag, left Shanghai on the 23rd instant with a full cargo of ammunition and arms, which were shipped at the Kiangnan Arsenal for Formosa. Several other vessels have, says the *China Gazette*, lately left with like cargoes for the same destination.

In the Supreme Court this morning Mr. W. L. Denys, on behalf of Mr. Saville Smith, filed a petition in bankruptcy. Mr. E. C. Ellis, who appeared for Messrs. P. Bohm and Hogan Armada, opposed the application. The Judge refused the protection of the Court on the grounds that the assets were unsatisfactory, and he would therefore reconsider his decision at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, if satisfactory evidence could then be produced.

A KYOTO (headquarters) telegram to a Tokyo paper, dated the 16th inst., states that the men of the Imperial Bodyguard and those belonging to the First Division now at Port Arthur will shortly be dispatched for Formosa. The Imperial Bodyguard has not yet had its "baptism of blood," being part of the force originally intended for a descent on the coast of Chihli but the negotiation for peace failed, and the Bodyguard is now, it appears, to be sent to Formosa in order that it shall not be disappointed of active operations altogether.

THE skit on the evils of tight-lacing published in this journal on the 8th instant in the form of "A Petition to Her Majesty the Queen" is commented on by the *Stam Observer* thusly:—"Foot-binding—Some 'well-intentioned' busy-bodies in certain Chinese ports are preparing a petition to the Emperor calling upon him to abolish the custom of binding the feet of women. The *Hongkong Telegraph* very ably 'scores off' these people by publishing a supposititious petition from the women of China to Queen Victoria, begging her to abolish tight-lacing. One thing is about as easy as the other."

THOSE two deservedly popular favourites, Miss Sallie Booth and Miss Blanche Ripley, who, it will be remembered, did not fail to render Miss Grace Hawthorne a helping hand in her personification of "Theodora" on Monday night last, will, in all probability, give an entertainment at the Theatre Royal on Saturday.

Miss Booth says she will produce, with the aid of Miss Ripley and some well-known Hongkong Amateurs, the "Arabian Nights" and play Mrs. Gillbrant herself; a part eminently suited to her own person. The *Stam Observer* has also [sent] many hundreds of lines in the "and country." The entertainment will include lots of "varieties" and should therefore draw a "lullish" house. Further particulars will be given in a day or two.

THOSE who are interested in tobacco companies in Sumatra and Borneo should be well satisfied, says the *Financial News*, with the results of the recent sales at Amsterdam. The first Borneo tobacco brought to market this season was sold by the New London Borneo Tobacco Company on 24th April, when 123 bales fetched 3s. 10d. per pound. This company paid an interim dividend in November last at the rate of 182 per cent., and the excellent price just obtained for its produce is a good augury for the future. The market for the Sumatra leaf, as reported, was very excited, and the United Lankat Plantations, Limited realised the very high figure of 5s. 4½d., or 323 cents, per pound for 483 bales, while some 6,000 bales fetched over 3s. 4d. per pound. If the German and American demand does not fall off, there should be a still further improvement at the next (15th May) sale.

WE understand that the split in the Volunteer camp, referred to in our issue of the 25th instant, was due to the promotion of Gunner Bremner to Sergeant, who has only seen one season's service in the Field Battery, and because his promotion was not carried out strictly in accordance with the Regulations. Such is the substance of the allegations floating about in Hongkong Volunteer circles. Last night at Headquarters the following promotions were made by ballot:—Sergeant Coyle to Q.M.S., Corporal R. F. Lammert to Sergeant, Gunner Bremner to Sergeant, and Gunners W. Armstrong and H. W. Kennett to Corporals, and Gunner Percall to Acting Corporal. Great dissatisfaction still prevails in the camp. We are sorry to hear that the "hitch" referred to has unfortunately cost the Corps two "crack" shots, namely, Sergeant A. Brown and Corporal Soenderman, both of whom have tendered their resignations.

ACCORDING to an Imperial Edict of the 22nd instant, Chu Ching-hsiao, acting Tactel of Yangtze Intendancy, has been promoted to be Provincial Judge of Chihli vice Chen Fu, placed on the retired list.

IT is reported from Ningpo that there is considerable sickness in the districts east of that port. Natives state that since the commencement of the summer over 900 children have died there of smallpox and some 1,500 adults from a fever epidemic.

PROBABLY the most extraordinarily rare and valuable book ever made is that which was recently presented to the Dowager-Empress of China, in commemoration of her sixtieth birthday, by the Christian women of China. The volume is most elegantly bound in solid silver boards, which were made in Canton. The ornamentation consists of birds and bamboos in relief, and the workmanship is superb and exquisite. The name of the book—"Complete New Testament"—is in large characters of solid gold. On the centre is a gold plate, on which is the inscription:—"Classic of Salvation for the World." The book is old gold plush. The Chinese say that the bamboo is an emblem of peace and the birds are messengers; the design, then, conveys to the Dowager-Empress a "message of peace" from her Christian friends.

THE Kobo *Chronicle* of the 18th instant says:—"The information was published more than a week ago to the effect that half the transports at Port Arthur were flying the yellow flag is now confirmed by a telegram from Nagasaki in the *Tokyo Asahi*. According to this telegram, as many as 1,000 of the troops at Tollenau and Kichow have been attacked by epidemic disease. The patients who can be moved will shortly be brought to Nagasaki."

TO-DAY, says the Singapore *Free Press* of the 20th instant, the Singapore Chamber of Commerce almost unanimously adopted a resolution approving of the Government proposal to establish a Treasury note issue concurrently with the bank note issue now current in the Straits. The Chamber further almost unanimously expressed its approval of the proposal that such a Government Treasury note issue should include the issue of a dollar note. The security for these issues is a silver reserve held up to half the value of notes in circulation, and the investment in approved securities of a sum equal to half the issue to be held as an auxiliary guarantee. The note issue is proposed to be current in the Colony and the Native States, but as to the application of the issue to the latter area that will depend on negotiations to follow the final sanction of the note issue. The question as to whether the note-issuing Banks are to retain their privileges is not to be considered until after the Treasury and Bank issues have been in concurrent use sufficiently long to derive conclusions from the experimental working of the new issue in competition with that of the Banks.

THE EPIDEMIC OF PLAGUE.

THE RECOGNITION OF MR. FRANCIS' SERVICES.

A SILVER INSTANT DECLINED.

The following correspondence, which speaks for itself, has been exchanged between his Excellency the Governor of Hongkong and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C.:

Governor House, 22nd May, 1895.

Sir,—By the direction of the Marquess of Ripon I have great pleasure in forwarding to you the accompanying handsome silver instant.

You will find engraved upon it the following inscription:—"Presented by the Hongkong Government, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, to J. J. Francis, Esq., Q.C., Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board, in recognition of services rendered during the epidemic of bubonic plague at Hongkong in 1894."

For those services you have already been thanked by me, and also by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In again expressing my appreciation of the work which you then performed so willingly and so ably, it only remains for me now to ask you to accept this instant from the Government of Hongkong as a slight recognition of your disinterested and valuable labours during the epidemic of 1894.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, WILLIAM ROBINSON, Governor, &c., &c., &c.

J. J. Francis, Esq., Q.C., &c., &c., &c.

THE REPLY.

Bank Buildings, Hongkong, 27th May, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegraph letter of the 22nd instant, in which you inform me that, by direction of the Marquess of Ripon, you have much pleasure in forwarding to me a handsome silver instant with an inscription to the effect that it is presented to me by the Hongkong Government, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, in recognition of the services rendered by me as Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Sanitary Board during the epidemic of bubonic plague at Hongkong in 1894.

Your Excellency is also so good as to remind me that I have already been thanked for these services by yourself and also by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and in expressing my appreciation of the work done by me so willingly and so ably, you ask me to accept the instant from the Government of Hongkong as a slight recognition of my disinterested and valuable labours.

In reply to an inquiry I addressed to you, you have been so good as to send me a copy of the letter of the 3rd December, 1894, addressed to your Excellency by the Chairman of the Committee appointed at the Public Meeting held at the City Hall on the 29th of September last, for the purpose of giving due recognition to the services rendered by the community during the plague, and to inform me that this instant is the sole response of the Secretary of State, so far as I am concerned, to the recommendations contained in that letter.

I find in the copy of the Committee's letter the following passage:—"The Committee consider that to Mr. Francis their best thanks are due for all his disinterested and able services to the wants of the colony for so long a time. As Chairman of the Permanent Committee Mr. Francis has had a heavy, troublesome, and laborious task to perform, and throughout the duration of the epidemic he was unremitting in his devotion to his duties and gave up a great portion of his time, no doubt to the detriment of his extensive practice, to carry on the work he had voluntarily undertaken. Your Excellency is too well acquainted with Mr. Francis' services for any need of further mention. Our Committee decided that his actions are deserving of the fullest recognition, that the best thanks should be tendered to him, and that his valuable services and useful work should be brought, through your Excellency, to the special notice of the Secretary of State."

I have taken the liberty of italicizing one or two words in this extract.

The Committee in their letter did not enter into any detail of the work done by me, knowing that your Excellency was too well acquainted with the particulars to render it necessary for them to do more than refer to them, and they, therefore, left it to your Excellency to report to the Secretary of State on the precise nature and details of the services rendered by me to the colony.

I did not feel at liberty to ask your Excellency to let me see your report sent home with the Committee's letter, nor to ask for a copy of these such documents are usually confidential, but I am bound to assume that your Excellency, under your reports to the Secretary of State, did full justice to the Sanitary Board and to the Permanent Committee, and put the Secretary of State in possession of all the materials necessary to enable him to form an opinion of the work done by all its members.

I think your Excellency will agree with me that the following are the material facts in the case:—

"That the Sanitary Board was not a department of the Local Government, acting, like the Public Works Department, under your Excellency's orders and by your authority, but was an independent body, popular in its constitution, possessed of statutory powers and jurisdiction, legislative and executive, taking orders, as the Attorney-General, Mr. Goodman, put it the other day, from no one, and invested with very extraordinary and almost dictatorial powers in the event of any epidemic appearing in the colony."

"That the Sanitary Board was not a department of the Local Government, acting, like the Public Works Department, under your Excellency's orders and by your authority, but was an independent body, popular in its constitution, possessed of statutory powers and jurisdiction, legislative and executive, taking orders, as the Attorney-General, Mr. Goodman, put it the other day, from no one, and invested with very extraordinary and almost dictatorial powers in the event of any epidemic appearing in the colony."

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